



Committee on  
Homeland Security Democrats  
Bennie G. Thompson, Ranking Member

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**PROMINENT DEMOCRATS ASK FOR INVESTIGATIONS INTO TERRORISM RISK  
CREATED BY THE THEFT OF PERSONAL RECORDS FROM  
CHOICEPOINT AND OTHER INFORMATION BROKERS**

Washington, DC— Responding to the theft of hundreds of thousands of Americans' personal records from ChoicePoint, several prominent Democrats in the House and Senate called for the Department of Homeland Security and the Government Accountability Office to investigate how terrorists can use information from commercial databases for terrorist activities.

ChoicePoint's database has 19 billion public records and includes motor vehicle registrations, license and deed transfers, military records, names, addresses and Social Security numbers. Yesterday, it was reported that ChoicePoint's database not only was broken into last month, but was compromised in the same manner in 2002.

**"We are concerned that ChoicePoint and similar entities are not securing their databases in ways that prevent terrorists from stealing personal records. Little exists to prevent Al Qaeda from breaking into these databases. This security gap must be fixed so that terrorists cannot steal American identities to enter the United States and hide among us once here. We also do not want the information from these databases to be used to finance terrorist attacks,"** said Mr. Thompson.

The letters were signed by Representative Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS), Ranking Member of the House Homeland Security Committee; Congressman John Conyers (D-MI), Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Committee; Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL), Ranking Member on the Subcommittee on International Operations and Terrorism of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee; Representative Loretta Sanchez (D-CA), Ranking Member on the Subcommittee on Economic Security, Infrastructure Protection, and Cybersecurity of the House Committee on Homeland Security; and Representative Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Intelligence, Information Sharing, and Terrorism Risk Assessment of the House Committee on Homeland Security.

The letters were sent to General Patrick Hughes, Acting Undersecretary for Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection, Nuala O'Connor Kelly, Chief Privacy Officer of the Department, and David Walker, Comptroller General, Government Accountability Office.

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